



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
BFO Building, Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1501
Website: www.poea.gov.ph E-mail: info@poea.gov.ph
Hotlines: 722-1144, 722-1155



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Additional COVID-19 test needed for Pinoy seafarers going to China

Aside from a nucleic acid test for COVID-19, all Filipino seafarers entering China are now required to take a COVID-19 IgM anti-body test, which is an additional requirement set by China for stricter protocol against the pandemic.

Starting early November 2020, all Filipino seafarers entering China from Philippine ports are required to take both nucleic acid tests and IgM anti-body test for COVID-19 within 48 hours before boarding the vessels.

The said COVID-19 tests must be conducted by designated testing facilities within three days prior to their boarding.

The list of the embassy-designated testing facilities can be downloaded at the official website of Embassy of China in the Philippines through the link <http://ph.china-embassy.org/chn/lsw/P020201023392666292125.pdf>

The said COVID-19 test is free of cost for the seafarers and must be shouldered by their respective agencies and employers. All concerned licensed manning agencies must also furnish the embassy of the results of the COVID-19 tests of their respective seafarers prior to their embarkation.

After taking both COVID-19 tests, Filipino seafarers must undergo a strict quarantine measures to further ensure the health and safety of concerned seafarers, as well as to lessen the number of positive cases among Filipino seafarers arriving in the ports of China.

China-bound foreign passengers may retrieve the detailed procedure for obtaining their certified health declaration form through <http://ph.chinaembassy.org/eng/sqdt/t1821811.htm>. ###